

Asbestos Sampling Procedure

IMPORTANT: A competent person should take the following steps to carry out sampling:

1 – Preparation

- Insure no one else is in the vicinity (10 metres) when sampling is done
- Shut down any heating or cooling systems to minimise the spread of any released fibres
- Turn off any fans if you're inside. If outside, then sample on a non windy day
- Do not disturb the material any more than is needed to take a small sample (2 square centimetre)
- Collect the equipment you will need for sampling, including:
 - pliers, paint scrapper, Knife, resealable plastic bags, disposable coveralls, waterproof sealant, plastic drop sheet & water spray bottle
 - P2 respirator, rubber gloves.

2 – Taking the sample

- Wear disposable gloves
- Put on respiratory protective equipment (RPE)
- Lay down a plastic drop sheet to catch any loose material that may fall off while sampling
- Wet the material using a fine mist of water containing a few drops of detergent before taking the sample. The water/detergent mist will reduce the release of asbestos fibres
- Carefully cut a thumb nail piece (up to 2 Cm) from the entire depth of the material using the pliers
- For fibre cement sheeting, take the sample from a corner edge or along an existing hole or crack
- Place the small piece into the resealable plastic bag
- Double bag the sample, include the: -
 - **date and location** and an
 - **asbestos caution warning**
- Tightly seal the container/bag after the sample is placed inside
- Carefully dispose of the plastic drop sheet if used
- Use a damp paper towel or rag to clean up any material on the outside of the container or around the area sampled
- Dispose of asbestos materials according to state procedures
- Patch the sampled area as required with a piece of duct tape to prevent fibre release.

3 – Clean up

- Seal the edges with waterproof sealant (duct tape) where the sample was taken from
- Carefully wrap up the plastic drop sheet with tape and then put this into another plastic rubbish bag
- Wipe down the tools and equipment with a dampened rag
- Place disposable gloves and coveralls into a rubbish bag, along with the damp rag and drop sheet
- Seal plastic bag
- Wash hands
- Keep RPE on until clean-up is completed
- Follow a decontamination procedure (personal washing) upon completion of the task.

4 – Testing

- Send all samples to a NATA-accredited laboratory or one that is either approved or operated by the relevant regulator.